September 5, 2019

Dear Neighbors,

We celebrated the life of Mayor Lila Cockrell this week. The city of San Antonio has lost a shining exemplar of public service, philanthropy, and leadership. Her legacy will enrich our city and our lives for generations to come.

Mayor Cockrell served for more than ten years as a city council person and was elected to the first of four terms as Mayor in 1975. After retiring from public office, she began a long career in philanthropy with a focus on preserving and developing beautiful green spaces and parks of San Antonio.

I had the great privilege of working with "Mayor C," as I affectionately called her at the San Antonio Parks Foundation. She taught me how to navigate the world of politics as a woman with grace and determination. Her advice to always "stick to your guns" has provided guidance through more than one challenging situation.

When Mayor C. first ran for office, she used her husband's name as was the custom of the time: Mrs. S.E. Cockrell, Jr. She later ran under her given name, Lila Cockrell and told me to embracing my roots and the person I've become.

The Cabello roots run deep in District 6, and we are equally proud of my husband's Czech name and roots, Havrda. I have pride in both names and the family we have built just like the hard-working families that live in District 6.

Our prayers are with Mayor C's family, friends, and the many people

who knew and loved her. We will always be grateful for the time with her and the lessons she taught the entire community.

Melissa Cabello Havrda
Councilwoman, District 6

Photo credit: Carlos Javier Sanchez/San Antonio Express News contributor

City of San Antonio, Council District 6

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